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National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Library of Congress
INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
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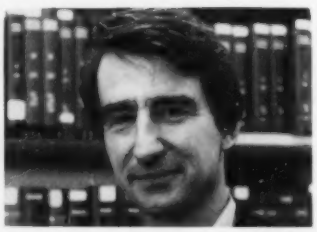

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On the Cover: A narrator-monitor team records a talking book in a studio at the Library's National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Narrating in the recording booth is John C. Reed, while Barbara Rappaport follows each word and inflection at the controls. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Cover Story: The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has been getting audio and braille books and magazines to its patrons since it was established 60 years ago. Currently, more than 20 million items are circulated annually to the service's 700,000 constituents. 97

The Library and the Gulf War's Aftermath:

☐ LC May Help Rebuild Kuwait's Library Collections: Kuwaiti officials say much of their libraries' holdings were destroyed by Iraqis. Copies could be made from the Library of many of the missing items. 95

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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States.

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LC May Help Rebuild Kuwaiti Library Holdings

The Iraqis' destruction of buildings, oil fields and the infrastructure of Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War is well known.

Only recently, however, has the destruction of the country's cultural heritage begun to make the news. Plunder and devastation are apparent everywhere, from the nearly century-old Sief Palace, home of the royal family, to one of the five gates of the Old City Wall to the Central Library.

But while the palace and historical gate can never be replaced, the devastated collections at the Library can.

"I told [the Kuwaiti officials that] the Library has a good number of Kuwaiti publications. For example, we have almost all the Kuwaiti newspapers on microfilm. Even at the Egyptian national library, which is one of the largest, they would hardly find anything from Kuwait, nothing as comprehensive as our collection."

—George Atiyeh

Photo by Alex Pohl

Said George N. Atiyeh, head of the Near East Section: "I met two people from the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters when I was in Egypt [in January, just as the war was starting]. According to them, hardly anything was left" after the Iraqis plundered the holdings of the Central Library, as well as the Kuwait University Library (340,000 volumes) and the National Scientific and Technical Information Center.

Dr. Atiyeh had been visiting the Library's office in Cairo. "They [the two Kuwaiti officials] asked me to explain to them what the Library of Congress has" that they might copy to help replace their collections, Dr. Atiyeh said.

"I told them the Library has a good number of Kuwaiti publications," he continued. "For example, in our section we have almost all the Kuwaiti newspapers on microfilm; we have the official gazette; we have many of their government publications. In addition to that, we have books on Kuwait" in many languages.

According to Dr. Atiyeh, the Library has holdings that the Kuwaitis are unlikely to find anywhere else, even in the Middle East. "I also said that . . . even at the Egyptian national library, which is one of the largest, they would hardly find anything from Kuwait. Probably a few books here and there, but nothing as comprehensive as our collection.

"So in that respect, we would be very helpful," said Dr. Atiyeh. Before the Iraqi invasion, the Library's assembly of Kuwaiti materials was the second-largest in the world, he added, but "now, at the moment, it is first."

When the Kuwaitis will begin to rebuild their Central Library's collection cannot be determined. As Dr. Atiyeh commented, "I suppose they have more important things to worry about" such as restoring basic services.

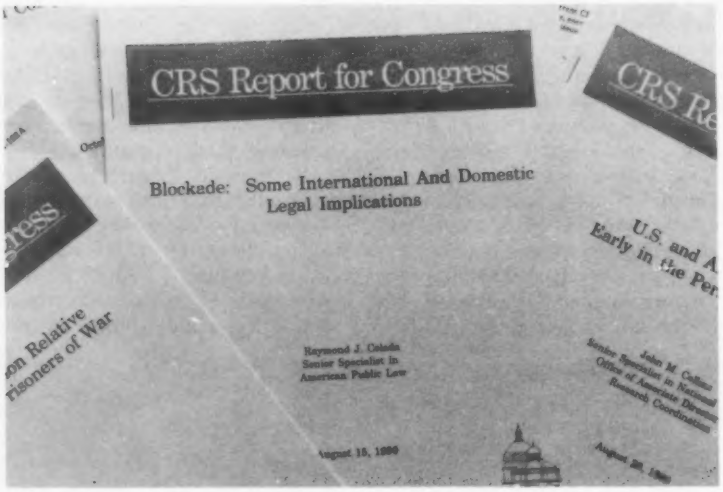
While he was in Cairo, Dr. Atiyeh participated in a symposium on the future of publishing in the Arab world after the Gulf crisis. According to him, there is a "growing U.S. market with a growing Arabic-speaking population, due to the current wave of immigrants from Arab and Muslim countries."

The Kuwaiti Central Library is different from the Library of Congress. It is more akin to a major public library, with 297,000 volumes, rather than a repository of information in all its formats from around the world. Thus it did not hold rarities as does LC, and this will make restoration of the collections easier. Dr. Atiyeh said he has been told that the library building is still intact.

But the Iraqis did destroy rare, irreplaceable books in a ground-floor library of the palace. According to a March 5 *Washington Post* report, "rare books were scattered on the floor amid defecation, smashed furniture and signs of attempts to set the texts ablaze."

Another trip to the Middle East may be in the offing for Dr. Atiyeh to help the Kuwaitis in their library's restoration, but he said that so far the Gulf kingdom has only made contact with the Cairo office. However, he said, "I am ready to go if they ask me." *—Guy Lamolinara*

CRS Responds to Changing Gulf Crisis


CRS Report for Congress
Blockade: Some International And Domestic Legal Implications
Raymond J. Celada
Senior Specialist in American Public Law
August 15, 1990

Some of the products that the Congressional Research Service has produced to help Congress set policy in the Persian Gulf. *Photo by Alex Pohl*

The Congressional Research Service is anticipating new questions from Congress and planning new research efforts as the Persian Gulf crisis subsides, shifting attention from the battlefield to diplomatic and political activity along with other postwar matters.

After Aug. 2, as the attention of the world, the United States and Congress became riveted on the unfolding events in the Gulf, CRS quickly marshaled its staff to provide an array of reports, Info Packs and briefings to assist Congress in its deliberations related to the conflict. Since the crisis began, CRS has distributed thousands of papers on the Gulf to congressional offices.

As of March 5, 82 papers were available to Congress. Topics included the conduct and cost of the war, options for settlement, burden-sharing, sanctions, Iraq's food situation, the role of the United Nations, the Geneva convention, Scud missiles, public opinion, the rights of men and women in military service and the effects of the crisis on the world oil market, to name but a few.

Virtually every CRS product line has been used to ensure that Congress quickly receives comprehensive information and analysis in useful, understandable forms. In addition, the Special Programs Office organized several staff seminars and a breakfast briefing, which 35 members of Congress attended. Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division (FAND) experts and senior specialists participated. The Library Services Division also expanded and reorganized the Gulf crisis files. The staff used optical disk technology to speed daily clipping packets to key committee staffs, reading rooms and research divisions.

A new item, the Persian Gulf Situation Report, was available by 11 a.m. every day throughout the crisis. It was distributed online through SCORPIO, an LC data base, to every congressional office and in paper form to the reading rooms. Coordinated by Mark M. Lowenthal, senior specialist in American Foreign Policy, the Situation Report summarized in one page the most current military, diplomatic and congressional developments.

When the allied coalition declared an end to offensive operations on Feb. 28, CRS assembled the Gulf Crisis Task Force, a team of specialists headed by Raymond W. Copson of FAND.

Representing many CRS divisions, the team will analyze both the current and future workload and the range of questions that Congress will pose in the days and weeks ahead. The war phase of the crisis is receding rapidly, and a new phase likely to be dominated by diplomatic, economic, legal and other concerns will require new CRS products and services.

In effect, the task force is reshaping its resources "to meet the crunch" and identify needed analyses of postwar issues ranging from reparations and reconstruction to environmental damage, arms control, veterans' benefits and "lessons learned."

Simply tracking events before and during the conflict demanded tremendous staff effort. Now, however, analysts recognize that the cessation of hostilities is likely to require more forward-looking analytical products that will help Congress decide issues of long-term consequence for U.S. policy.

Some of the issues CRS will have to address include how to provide security and stability in the Gulf region, restructure America's military forces for the post-Cold War decade, assess effects of the war on U.S. energy and economic policies and define the U.S. role in a "new world order."

Meanwhile, the volume of incoming requests that require quick response to Gulf-related questions continues unabated. Congress relies more and more on this team of experts to assess and analyze quickly the myriad issues of the Persian Gulf War. Already, CRS has received a number of appreciative notes, letters and calls.

—*Betty A. Alberts*

High-Quality Service Meets Special Needs:

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

More than 20.5 million audio and braille books and magazines are circulated each year among the patrons who use the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS).

Approximately 700,000 residents of the United States or citizens living abroad who have visual or physical impairments are able to read the latest best-sellers, keep up with their favorite magazines and browse through their favorite books by taking advantage of this 60-year-old Library of Congress program.

Established in 1931 with passage of the Pratt-Smoot Act, NLS was originally created to meet the needs of blind adults, particularly veterans blinded during World War I. Changes over the years have expanded responsibilities to include blind children and physically impaired individuals who cannot use printed matter. Since its inception, the program has served more than 14.2 million individuals using braille and recorded NLS materials.

At first, available reading materials consisted only of braille books. But changes in technology soon led to the development of talking books and talking-book machines. In fact, on his 1877 patent application, Thomas Edison listed "phonograph books" for the blind as the second of 10 proposed uses for his newly invented phonograph; music was listed fourth. However, it took many years for technology to match his hopes.

The first talking books were recorded on large, heavy disks at high speeds. Among them were the Bible, historical documents (including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution) and works by Shakespeare. During the 1930s, a book of 60,000 words could be recorded on eight or nine 12-inch discs with a playing time of 12½ minutes per side.

Today's talking books are a completely different story. Advances in technology have made it possible for books to be produced on lightweight tape cassettes that can be played on small, easy-to-operate machines. A single cassette can provide up to six hours of playing time, the equivalent of about 200 pages of text. Voice-indexing, a technological breakthrough developed by NLS, has made it possible to index tape contents. In fact, NLS produced the first voice-indexed recorded dictionary; the 56-cassette *Concise Heritage Dictionary* was released in 1984.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped produces 70 magazine titles for its patrons. Last year, 4.6 million copies were sent to subscribers.

How the Program Works. Through NLS, the Library of Congress provides an extensive, high-quality library service for blind and physically handicapped residents of the United States. With the cooperation of authors and publishers who grant permission to use copyrighted works, NLS selects and produces full-length books and magazines in braille and recorded form. These reading materials are then distributed to a network of about 150 cooperating libraries, which circulate the materials to eligible borrowers. Reading materials and playback machines are sent to borrowers and returned to libraries by postage-free mail.

Each step of this process—from selecting books for production, and developing and producing reliable playback machines, to adapting new technology for continual improvement to the program—requires attention to detail. The NLS staff (119 budgeted

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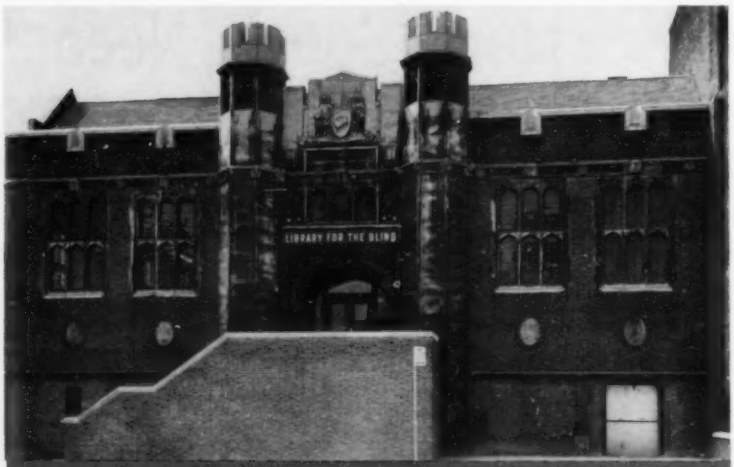

The service of old: original home of the Library for the Blind in Philadelphia, one of 18 libraries that became part of the NLS network in 1931. . .

NLS *(Cont. from p. 97)*
positions) works with consumer advisory committees, equipment manufacturers and patrons of the program to ensure that the needs of the blind and physically handicapped are met.

"We are here," says NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke "to provide a library service to blind and physically handicapped individuals who have little or no access to materials, except for what they can obtain through our network of libraries."

Who is Eligible? Anyone who is unable to read or use standard printed materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations may receive service. Patrons must be certified by an authority acceptable to the Library, such as a physician, optometrist, registered nurse or therapist. Qualified readers must be residents of the United States or its possessions; services are also available to American citizens living abroad.

According to a comprehensive, nationwide survey sponsored by NLS, about 2 million people are eligible for the talking book program due to some type of visual impairment. Another 1 million with permanent physical conditions that affect their ability to use printed material, such as paralysis, missing hands or arms, lack of muscle coordination or prolonged weakness, are also eligible. In addition, individuals suffering from such temporary physical limitations as a lengthy recovery from a severe accident can also benefit from the program.

How NLS Works. NLS consists of the Office of the Director, the Materials Development Division and the Network Division.

In charge is Mr. Cylke, director of NLS since 1973. The Office of the Director determines overall policy, plans programs and coordinates administration of the $40 million-plus budget (including staff payroll), of which some 87 percent goes directly for books, magazines, equipment and publications used by eligible users. The remaining 13 percent is spent on rent and other support services. The Office of the Director incorporates activities that affect the entire staff, and includes the Administrative Section, Automation Operations, Research and Development, and the Publications and Media Section.

Headed by Henry Paris, the Materials Development Division is responsible for selecting and producing the reading materials and related equipment. Its units are Collection Development, Bibliographic Control, Production Control, Quality Assurance, Engineering and Braille Development.

The Network Division (acting head Miriam Pace) manages activities related to network development, works with cooperating libraries that provide services to patrons and responds to inquiries from the general public. The division includes the Consumer Relations Office and the Music, Network Services and Reference sections.

The work of each of these sections is vital to the overall success of NLS and the talking-book program. Staffers are responsible for selecting books, producing high-quality recordings, developing and maintaining the latest playback equipment, ensuring that the materials and equipment are distributed to network libraries, seeking and utilizing consumer input, informing patrons about available books and keeping a tight control on how much money is spent.

Management. When he first became NLS director, Mr. Cylke determined that a comprehensive review of current management practices was needed. At his request, the Association of Research Libraries permitted NLS to participate in a 1975 investigation utilizing its Management Review and Analysis Program (MRAP).

The study was done by, for and with all levels of staff, and directly involved more than 95 percent of them through questionnaires, interviews and participation in work groups. Four dominant themes evolved and were identified in the final report. These were: Concern for Staff, Written Guidelines and

Standards, Information Flow, and Planning and Implementation. Also addressed were issues related to participatory management, planning and staff morale.

As a result of this study, NLS changed. Current management philosophy emphasizes direct involvement of the staff in setting forth and meeting specific goals. When preparing the annual NLS budget, the director outlines major goals and objectives. Each NLS section then sets goals and objectives within those guidelines, indicating how available resources and funds will be allocated to meet those goals. After much discussion and number-crunching, the annual "blue book" is produced. This management plan outlines the goals and details, who is responsible for each task, when the task is to be completed and how much money is needed. In addition, the current budget is fitted within an overall five-year plan for NLS.

Staff involvement does not stop at developing the budget and setting the goals, but continues yearlong through reports and meetings. Quarterly discussions are held to ascertain whether staff members are on target with respect to their tasks and goals. Revisions are made as needed.

This style of NLS management began with the MRAP assessment 17 years ago, and has worked ever since.

Since 1974 the NLS budget has grown from just under $9.9 million in fiscal 1974 to $40.1 million in fiscal 1991. Readership has increased more than 100 percent. Production of cassette books has increased more than 2,000 percent, with 65 titles produced in fiscal 1974 and 1,700 titles produced in fiscal 1990 (see box on page 104).

The operation of NLS is too complex to address in great detail within the scope of this article. Rather, attention will be given to some of the stages through which each book and machine must pass. Keep in mind that many of these procedures occur simultaneously.

Collection Development. NLS staffers are often asked who selects the materials to be recorded and how those selections are made. The staff of the Collection Development Section is responsible for choosing reading material on the basis of literary reviews, reader requests and recommendations from network and consumer advisory committees. Over the years, research and user surveys have shown that NLS patrons prefer books in the following major categories: best-sellers, historical fiction, humor, biography, history, detective and mystery stories, and literature.

"We attempt to do every best-seller, whether fiction or nonfiction, that appears on *The New York Times* list of best-sellers," says Dr. Thomas Martin, head of the Network Services Section. Best-sellers that are not appropriate for recorded or braille format, such as a collection of cartoons, are excluded.

"Selections are based on reviews in the media and augmented by requests for older titles," commented Caroline Longmoor, head of the Collection Development Section. "In addition, readers may request more current titles. It is our policy to produce in special format books that are favorably reviewed in at least two national review media."

Meeting the needs of the blind and physically handicapped audience is not a simple task. "The audience of this service is as diverse in its educational level, its intellectual level and in its interests as any population," said Ms. Longmoor. "We cannot satisfy the needs of everyone. . . . Our wish is to produce a library collection that represents what one can find in any good-sized public library."

. . . and LC's Reading Room for the Blind, circa 1900, a forerunner to NLS. Groups met here from the late 1800s until well into the 1930s.

Of the approximately 40,000 books that are published each year and available to the general public, NLS must narrow the choices to about 2,200 new and established titles each year and determine whether the material will be recorded, brailled or both. Multiple copies are made of each title, at an average cost of $4,200 per title for cassette books ($6

(Cont. on p. 100)

per copy) and $5,000 per title for braille books.

Once the books have been selected and the copyright release has been received, the Production Control Section assigns the titles to qualified contractors for production. Through use of its automated tracking system, known as the Production Control Management Information System (PCMIS), NLS can now efficiently track the status of each of the 2,400 titles and 70 magazines produced each year.

"This system gives us the up-to-date information we need to manage a very complex production process involving dozens of contractors manufacturing and distributing over 7 million individual copies of these books and magazines each year," said Lois Mandelberg, head of the Production Control Section. Completed after seven years of planning and development, the new system has greatly increased the accuracy of data and has given NLS more direct control of the entire production process.

According to Michael Moodie, NLS research and development officer, who coordinated the system's development, "The most difficult achievement in developing PCMIS was to define and analyze the various steps in the production process of a book—approximately 40 of them for an average book—and how the various steps interrelate."

The process of tracking book production actually begins with the Collection Development Section, where librarians first create the basic record for each title. Each title is preceded by a brief annotation describing the contents of the book and alerting readers to the presence of strong language or explicit descriptions of sex or violence. As the book progresses through its many production stages, the Publications and Media, Bibliographic Control, Production Control and Quality Assurance sections input information at appropriate intervals. The system uses computer screens that require certain data to be input before the next production stage can occur.

Once a title has been selected and annotated, the book moves to the Production Control Section (PCS), which tracks and monitors production of recorded or braille books. PCS determines which professional contractor will produce a particular title. The book concurrently moves to the Bibliographic Control Section, which produces the cataloging materials vital to efficient library operation. Thus, when the network libraries receive copies of a finished book, the catalog information is already on-line in the computer system and is also documented with accompanying catalog cards and microfiche.

"This [automated tracking] system gives us the up-to-date information we need to manage a very complex production process involving dozens of contractors manufacturing and distributing over 7 million individual copies of books and magazines each year."

While the book is being recorded or brailled, the Quality Assurance Section (QAS) ensures that the materials being produced are of the highest quality. Product samples must be sent to QAS by the contractor at several points throughout the process. All contractors must meet rigid NLS technical standards set by the Engineering Section.

"We check everything," says Bob Kost, head of the Quality Control Section, "from the professional quality of the narration to the depth of the grooves to the size of the type on container labels."

After NLS standards have been met, and the other production stages are complete, finished copies of the new books are distributed to the regional and subregional libraries participating in the NLS network across the nation. The number of copies sent to each library is determined by requests received at NLS; each library receives at least one copy of each title.

When a new title is available, it is announced in one of the two bimonthly magazines, *Talking Book Topics* or *Braille Book Review*. Produced by the NLS Publications & Media Section, these magazines are sent to registered borrowers to inform them of the availability, content and format of the new titles. The section also consolidates these publications into annual or biennial catalogs. Most of these publications are produced in several formats, with recorded materials listed in large print and on cassettes and flexible discs. Catalogs of braille materials are produced both in large print and in braille formats.

Flexible Discs. Popular best-sellers and numerous magazines are recorded in another format—inexpensive and easy-to-produce flexible discs. Several thousand copies of book titles that are expected to be extremely popular are produced and circulated within a few months of their release in print form. These titles are also produced in cassette format, but readers using disc-playing machines do not have to wait for the slower process to enjoy current books.

Almost 70 magazines are offered to patrons on flexible disc or in braille. Readers may request free subscriptions to *U.S. News & World Report, National Geographic, Consumer Reports, Sports Illustrated* and many other popular magazines. Current issues are mailed directly to readers at the same time the print issues appear or shortly thereafter.

This prompt service is made possible through the cooperation of the magazines' publishers, fast turnaround on the part of NLS-selected manufacturers and through the NLS Comprehensive Mailing List System

NLS Users Instrumental in Keeping the Service Up-to-Date

The role of the consumer is vitally important to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. "The input of consumers is apparent in every aspect of the NLS program, from the early stages of book selection to consumer reaction to the finished product," says Dr. Judith Dixon, NLS consumer affairs officer.

Consumers are involved at every step of the book selection and production process, according to Dr. Dixon. "We receive feedback about everything, from narrators to mispronounced words, as well as suggestions for making changes."

She illustrated her point with a story about the *New York Times Weekly*, which is recorded on flexible disc and includes a lot of new and unusual names. Readers called and asked that difficult names, like Saddam Hussein, be spelled out on the recording. She passed along the suggestion, and the idea was adopted. "We do spell out difficult names now, but only in the *New York Times Weekly* and *The Writer*," said Dr. Dixon. Recordings of other books and magazines do not include spelling because many people find the procedure too distracting.

Dr. Dixon deals directly with consumers every day, by phone and through letters. She listens to their complaints and passes along their suggestions. She often serves as liaison between consumers and other NLS sections, either directing a call to the appropriate section or responding to a consumer inquiry that originated in another section. Dr. Dixon also informs consumers about what NLS sections are doing to meet consumer needs, such as writing instructions or doing a survey.

Another important source of consumer information comes from the two major organizations, the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and the American Council of the Blind (ACB). These independent groups are actively involved in representing the needs and wants of blind consumers throughout the country. Both organizations have representatives serving on various NLS advisory committees; individual members talk to NLS as well. A constant exchange of information takes place through regular meetings between NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke and the leaders of NFB and ACB.

The Blinded Veterans Association also has representatives on NLS advisory committees and communicates the needs of its members to NLS. In addition, NLS sends representatives and exhibit materials to the annual conferences of all these groups each year and participates as a member of the North America and Caribbean Region of the World Blind Union.

(CMLS). CMLS is a centralized data base that maintains all the names, addresses, demographic information, and magazine and publication subscriptions for NLS patrons and produces mailing labels for direct-mail magazines and catalogs. When a reader moves, the change in address need only be entered once in CMLS, and all the reader's subscriptions are automatically updated. This is a vast improvement over the old system, in which each NLS library had to update each subscription one at a time.

Playback Equipment. Production of recorded books and magazines, either on cassettes or flexible discs, would not be of much use unless they could be played back on compatible equipment. Playback equipment is loaned free to readers for as long as recorded materials provided by NLS and its cooperating libraries are being borrowed.

Talking books are produced in a unique format that must be played back on special equipment also provided by NLS. Talking-book machines are designed to play disc-recorded books and magazines at 8, 16 and 33⅓ rpm. Cassette-book machines are designed for cassettes recorded at 15/16 inch per second (ips) and the standard speed of 1⅞ ips on two and four sides. The slower speed of 15/16 ips makes it possible to fit considerably more material on each cassette. When recorded on a 4-track cassette instead of the traditional 2-track cassette, the slower speed makes it possible to provide up to six hours of playing time per cassette. The average book consists of two cassettes. The slower speed makes the books easier for patrons to handle, keeps costs down and also protects copyright.

Readers with special needs can request accessories to facilitate their use of playback equipment. For example, patrons with very limited mobility can borrow a remote-control unit that enables them to start and stop the machine from a distance. Severely disabled patrons can request a breath switch that can be plugged into the transmitter. Earphones with an individual volume control for each ear are provided for patrons with a hearing loss.

One of the newest machines offered by NLS is the Easy Machine (E-1). The E-1 was created after research indicated that many individuals who were eligible for the NLS talking-book program did not participate because they had limited dexterity. Designed to meet these special needs, the E-1 is extremely

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simple to operate and has only two main controls—a sliding switch and a push button.

Created primarily to meet the needs of the very large proportion of eligible patrons who are elderly, frail or multiply impaired, the E-1 is actually a very complex machine

that uses microprocessors to control the various functions. In order to achieve the simplicity required to operate the E-1, other operations were eliminated, such as fast-forward, variable speed and tone control.

Another type of playback machine is nearing the end of its development and testing phase. The Combination Machine, which combines a record player and tape deck, will enable patrons to listen to both flexible discs and tape cassettes on the same machine. Currently, patrons must borrow two machines, one for each format. More than 1,000 prototype machines have been distributed to NLS patrons for testing and evaluation. The final results are not yet in.

The continuing development and design of these machines takes place in the Engineering Section within the Materials Development Division. The Engineering Section not only designs and tests these machines but also sets standards that must be met by the manufacturers contracted to produce them. Throughout the production process, manufacturers are required to provide sample machines for NLS to test and measure against rigorous specifications. In addition, engineering inspections are conducted on-site by NLS engineers on a continuing basis.

NLS contracts for 48,000 new machines per year. There are currently more than 500,000 cassette machines and more than 300,000 talking-book record players in circulation. As with all machinery, there is the problem of maintenance. Repairs were made on 117,000 cassette machines and 32,500 record players in fiscal 1989. NLS maintains strict factory controls, and many repairs are done under warranty. But NLS puts a new twist on the repair of its machines—most of the nonwarranty repairs are done for network libraries by volunteers.

NLS engineer Abdelraouf Amin checks circuits in a cassette machine (left) and engineer Lloyd Rasmussen, who is blind, works on an Easy Machine.

These volunteers are members of the Telephone Pioneers, an organization of 3,000 members scattered across the country. Most of the Pioneers are retired phone company employees or others experienced in the repair and maintenance of electronic equipment. Recently they have been joined by the Elfuns, retirees from General Electric. Over the past 30 years, the Telephone Pioneers have repaired 1.3 million machines.

A useful new development in the repair of NLS equipment was put in place in May 1990, when the first National Reclamation Center officially opened in Phoenix. Now, parts from damaged and unrepairable machines are systematically being salvaged for reuse.

Housed in space donated by a large AT&T facility, the center was launched and is staffed solely by members of the Telephone Pioneers. As of yet there are no accurate estimates of how much money will be saved through this new center, but NLS Machine Maintenance and Repair Coordinator John Reiner calculates that the maximum amount that could be saved per cassette machine would be around $60 to $70. A new machine costs approximately $150. Considering the sizable number of repairs made and new machines produced each year, the potential savings are enormous.

As demonstrated by the work of

the Telephone Pioneers, volunteers play an important role in the operation of NLS network libraries. Volunteers were initially responsible for the narration and recording of many NLS books. Now, however, all NLS recordings are done in professional studios under rigorous guidelines. Volunteers still narrate and record books, primarily of local

NLS Plays Lead International Role

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped plays an important role on the international scene.

According to NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke, "It has been estimated that 75 million people throughout the world cannot read printed materials because of blindness or other physical handicaps. But the quantity of materials produced in special format for them is never more than a small fraction of the world's print output."

NLS has taken an active role in trying to help nations meet the reading needs of their blind citizens. Working in conjunction with the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), Mr. Cylke, Karen Renninger, then assistant chief of the network division, and other NLS representatives helped establish the IFLA Section of Libraries for the Blind in 1977. Since then, the Section has met twice each year and has defined two primary objectives:

☐ Encouraging the establishment of library services to handicapped populations in countries where it does not exist and expansion of services where it does; and

☐ Removing the major obstacles to the free international flow of special-format materials. Such obstacles include inadequate bibliographic control, nonstandardized formats, cumbersome copyright restrictions and unfavorable postal laws and customs regulations.

Great progress has been made; many difficulties remain. One of the biggest problems is incompatible technology; some countries have developed unique production and equipment systems. Reading materials and equipment cannot easily be shared among countries with incompatible systems.

NLS has taken steps to try to change this by urging the international community to develop standards that would make recorded materials produced in all countries compatible. Technological barriers to international lending was the topic of a paper presented by Henry Paris, chief of NLS Materials Development Division, at the IFLA meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, last August. Coauthored by Dr. Thomas Martin, head of NLS Network Services Section, the paper called for international cooperation in the development of standards aimed at increasing compatibility of talking-book systems.

Borrowing NLS materials would greatly increase the number of titles available to readers in other countries; NLS has the largest special-format collection in the world, with more than 50,000 titles available. Many countries, including Canada, Australia, Ireland and South Africa, currently use the NLS system; others use commercially available systems. Since NLS machines can play either NLS or commercially produced cassettes, NLS patrons have access to most of the materials in the world. One exception is material produced by the Royal Institute for the Blind (RNIB) in England, which uses the 20-year-old Clark and Smith cassette system. RNIB is considering changing its talking-book system.

Many countries have already incorporated U.S. technology into their talking-book programs, and more than 20 countries have acquired the U.S.-inspired 4-track, half-speed units, including Austria, Belgium, China, France, Israel, Japan, Switzerland, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. In order to maintain stability during the time it takes to set international standards, NLS has promised to continue using the basic U.S. technology for at least the next 10 years.

interest, for network libraries; serve as braille transcribers and proofreaders; inspect books for damage; help with clerical work and outreach efforts; and perform a variety of other services.

Network Libraries. A vital part of the ongoing operation of the Talking Book program takes place in libraries scattered across the United States. These network libraries serve as the local library facilities for blind and handicapped patrons. They are similar to typical public libraries in that they house the materials borrowed by patrons and directly serve the needs of those patrons.

But these libraries are also substantially different from most public libraries. Most borrowers do not visit the library in person; rather, they place their orders by phone or mail. Patrons also receive their books through the mail, thanks to the free mail service authorized by Congress each year. How the needs of patrons are met vary according to their expressed preferences. For example, some borrowers prefer to select their own books while others ask the library to select and send them books meeting preselected criteria at regular intervals.

Network Services. To help network libraries meet the needs of their patrons and to facilitate reader access to recorded and braille books, NLS provides extensive support services through its Network Services Section. The section performs three major functions: providing bibliographic support, offering the ser-

(Cont. on p. 104)

Program Activity, 1974–1990

	FY74	FY90	Percent Change
Readership [1]	318,300	695,300	+ 118%
Circulation [2]	11,222,800	20,695,200	+ 84
Book Production [3]			
Braille			
Titles	247	373	+ 51
Volumes	25,000	45,500	+ 82
Rigid Disc [4]			
Titles	761	0	[5]
Containers	639,500	0	[5]
Cassette			
Titles	65	1,734	+ 2,568
Containers	151,100	1,500,000	+ 893
Flexible Disc			
Titles	0	105	[5]
Containers	0	302,000	[5]
Total			
Titles	1,073	2,212	+ 106
Volumes/Containers	815,600	1,847,500	+ 127
Magazine Production			
Braille			
Titles	21	27	+ 29
Copies	214,200	358,000	+ 67
Flexible Disc			
Titles	25	43	+ 72
Copies	4,263,000	4,284,000	+ 0.5
Total			
Titles	46	70	+ 52
Copies	4,477,200	4,642,000	+ 4
Libraries			
Regional	53	56	+ 6
Subregional	83	91	+ 10
Multistate Centers	0	3	[5]
Deposit Collections	13,906	25,599	+ 84
Staff	99	119	+ 20
Budget	$9,894,600	$37,112,000	+ 275

[1] Includes braille, disc and cassette users
[2] Refers to volumes and containers; includes books and magazines
[3] Excludes volunteer-produced material
[4] Phased out
[5] Percentages not applicable

NLS *(Cont. from p. 103)*
vices of expert consultants and serving as the library for American citizens residing overseas.

The Network Services Section serves readers directly by producing detailed bibliographies on specific subjects, such as mystery, romance, westerns and historical fiction.

As part of its support services, NLS sends expert consultants to visit network libraries and offer technical advice on how best to meet their continually changing needs. Network Services also provides direct library services to eligible readers who are overseas.

The Network Division, which includes the Network Services Section, also houses several other sections meeting special needs. These include the Music and Reference Sections.

The Music Section serves the needs of blind and physically handicapped musicians by providing large-print and braille music scores, braille books about music and recorded self-instructional courses. The NLS music collection is one of the largest of its kind in the world, consisting of more than 30,000 titles.

The Reference Section provides reference and referral services to NLS staff, network agencies and the general public. The section prepares circulars, bibliographies and other publications on topics of concern to handicapped individuals, such as the national reading program and information about the various aspects of handicapping conditions.

The Braille Development Section, housed in the Materials Development Division, also provides for special needs. It prepares guides and teaching manuals on all codes of braille. In addition, the section offers transcribing courses to volunteers, leading to official Library of Congress certification in literary, music and mathematics braille transcription. Blind individuals can be certified in braille proofreading. The section also explores new developments in braille technology and operates the NLS braille computer center.

LC Gets Involved—Scientifically Speaking

The Science and Technology Division hosted a science fair for local teachers and librarians on Feb. 11. Approximately 200 educators, librarians and other interested persons attended the fair and had access to numerous scientific resources. The fair's purpose was to encourage young people to develop a daily awareness and appreciation of science and help their teachers become more familiar with what is available to help spur interest in the scientific and technological arenas.

The fair was one of 32 Washington-area events held during the week of Feb. 10 in recognition of Public Science Day, the third annual observance sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Public Science Day is an outreach program through which AAAS is attempting to broaden grade school (3–12) students' understanding of the increasing role of science in everyday life.

The underlying goal is to spur the young students to study more science and mathematics and possibly pursue careers in those disciplines. Many recent studies have shown that there is a severe shortage of students interested in studying these fields.

Said Ron Wilkinson, senior science specialist in the Science and Technology Division, "We are developing a number of programs in the division to help combat the current crisis in precollege science education. We want to help teachers motivate students, and we want to assist in making science more exciting and more fun so that kids will want to study it."

Ron Wilkinson, senior science specialist, demonstrates his homemade telescope for Science and Technology Division colleagues (from left) Joyce Howland, Division Chief Joseph Price and Constance Carter. *Photo by Reid Baker*

In addition to several tables of books and other science teaching materials, visitors to the fair were exposed to maps, globes, videocassettes and hands-on scientific instruments, such as a homemade telescope. Also available were numerous scientific bibliographies and other relevant publications, such as the *Library of Congress Science Tracer Bullet* series.

Tables were staffed by the Science and Technology Division, while other tables were manned by guest exhibitors such as the Public Broading Service and the Annenberg Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which both demonstrated science video films and distributed literature. Also exhibiting were the World Resources Institute, AAAS and the Mathematical Sciences Education Board.

LC's Children's Literature Center displayed books for the younger student. Information provided to the visitors covered subjects from astronomy to marine science to psychology and the health sciences.

During Public Science Day, the Library worked with AAAS on "Science Encounters '91," a symposium in which scientistsspoke about new frontiers in science and technology to 1,200 students and their teachers.

—*John Sullivan*

Institute on Federal Library Resources Planned for July

The 19th annual Institute on Federal Library Resources, sponsored by the School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America, will be held in Washington July 22–Aug. 2.

Frank Kurt Cylke, the academic director, announced that the curriculum will, for example: (1) identify the role of federal libraries, information centers and data banks in the federal library community; (2) discuss the implication of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science's posture as related to federal libraries.

Participants will be addressed by 25 directors of federal information programs and several membership association representatives.

Information on the institute may be obtained by contacting the School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064; telephone (202) 319-5085.

Library Seeks Approval For Metal Detectors

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has requested approval from the Joint Committee on the Library to increase Library security measures, including the installation of metal detectors and x-ray equipment.

The proposed security measures would include the installation of metal detectors at 12 Library entrances to prevent the entry of unauthorized weapons and the installation of x-ray equipment at six designated entrances and in the Library's mail room to minimize the possible introduction of explosive materials.

The request for funding for the necessary equipment and associated staff is being reviewed by the House and Senate subcommittees on legislative branch appropriations.

"This is not a new idea," said James R. Trew, director of Integrated Support Services. A Library committee established during the reorganization process more than two years ago has been planning tighter security for the Library.

"I think it is fair to say that Desert Storm has heightened awareness of the need for security for the staff, the collections and the buildings," Mr. Trew said. The Library and other government agencies tightened security in January as the result of Gulf War tensions and threats of terrorist attacks.

Mr. Trew and Thomas M. Jones, chief of protective services, noted that the requested metal detectors and x-ray devices would bring security at the Library to a level commensurate with that of other Capitol Hill buildings, including the Capitol,

"I think it is fair to say that Desert Storm has heightened awareness of the need for security for the staff, the collections and the buildings."
—James Trew

House and Senate office buildings and the Supreme Court.

During fiscal 1992 budget hearings on Feb. 7, all three of the Library's labor unions stated support for increased security measures, including metal detectors. *—Gail Fineberg*

LC in the News

☐ Stories about the Library in general frequently pop up in the press. For example:

"It is smaller than almost any arm of government yet mightier than the Pentagon, richer than the Treasury and just plain bigger than all of us."

So went a Dec. 15 story by the Associated Press describing the Library. The AP writer said that "here, more than in any other single place on Earth, reside the collective knowledge and wisdom of humanity. This is the tip of man's reach so far."

Some of LC's treasures are also noted, such as the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, a postcard from Harry Houdini to his mother and maps used by sailors before Columbus.

☐ And stories about the specific collections are also common. For example, in a Dec. 9 *New York Times* review of the *The Life and Times of Harold L. Ickes, 1874–1952,* author T. H. Watkins calls the papers of FDR's longtime interior secretary "the richest and most complete records of a single human life that exist anywhere." The papers are held in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

And LC's Freud collection of 75,000 documents, the largest in the world, was noted in the Jan. 15 issue of *The Washington Times.* The article noted that "among the documents are taped interviews with former patients, drafts of books and Freud's letters to his friend Wilhelm Fliess, with whom he openly discussed emerging theories. The Library of Congress received most of its Freud papers from the Freud Archives Inc. . . . established 40 years ago when a group of psychoanalysts became concerned that many of Freud's documents had been lost in wartime."

☐ A reference to the Library even turned up in a Feb. 3 letter to *The New York Times* book review section. Jack O'Dea of Grand Coulee, Wash., wanted to know why the *Times* puts *Millie's Book* on the nonfiction list of best-sellers when "everybody knows that only a very few, very talented dogs can talk, and then only on "America's Funniest Home Videos."

The editor replied that the publisher as well as the Library of Congress "places it in the nonfiction category: 1. Bush, George 1924–—Anecdotes. 2. Millie (Dog). 3. Dogs—United States—Biography."

—Guy Lamolinara

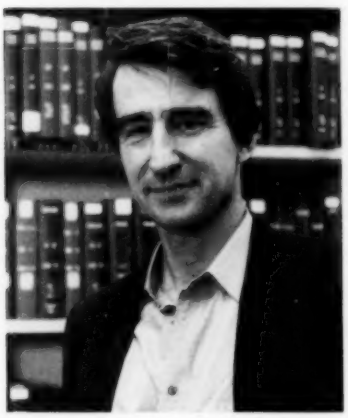
New LC Film Wins Awards

A new film about the Library of Congress, "Memory and Imagination: New Pathways to the Library of Congress," has won three awards. The film received the Grand Award for Best Information Production at the 33rd annual International Film & TV Festival of New York, and the Best of Show of all films submitted to the 32nd annual CINDY competition sponsored by the Association of Visual Communicators. It also received a Golden Eagle Award from the Council on International Nontheatrical Events (CINE), making it eligible for consideration in film festivals throughout the world.

"Memory and Imagination" explores the role of the Library as the "memory bank of mankind" and the implications for using new technologies to share its resources with the world.

A host of notable individuals is featured in the film, including Sam Waterston, Gore Vidal, Isaac Stern, Librarian James Billington, Vartan Gregorian, Julia Child, Ted Koppel, Francis Ford Coppola, Penn and Teller, Steve Jobs and Stewart Brand, among others.

Distribution and broadcast arrangements are being explored.



Sam Waterston in "Memory and Imagination," a new Library film.

PUBLICATIONS

Library Hi Tech Publishes Special Issue

Library Hi Tech, a widely respected journal for the library automation community, published quarterly by Pierian Press, has published a special issue on Open Systems Interconnection (OSI). **Ray Denenberg** of the Network Development and MARC Standards Office served as editor for the issue.

OSI dates back to 1978 as an effort by the International Standards Organization to develop standard communication protocols to allow computers to communicate effectively. An OSI Basic Reference Model was standardized in 1984 which specifies seven layers of communication, and individual protocols have subsequently been standardized for each layer.

The OSI issue includes articles, editorials and sidebars from 18 library and communications experts from within as well as outside the library community. The first two articles provide an in-depth description of the seven OSI layers. Individual articles (or sidebars) address applications including file transfer, electronic mail, information retrieval, interlibrary loan and electronic data interchange. Two articles cover two of the most important support functions for OSI, network management and directory services.

Three articles pertain to implementation: profiles, testing and products. OSI profiles are developed for specific communities and applications. They designate concrete values for choices left open in the actual standards. A notable OSI profile is GOSIP (the Government OSI Profile), which mandates that federal government agencies must adhere to formal OSI standards. An article in the *Library Hi Tech* OSI issue describes the GOSIP profile in detail. Another article describes OSI conformance testing for bibliographic applications. Finally, as OSI standards become finalized, computer manufacturers are providing networking solutions based on these standards. The final article presents a sample of these OSI products that are now or will soon become available.

LC Well Represented In Dictionary Supplement

Three Librarians of Congress (Archibald MacLeish, Luther H. Evans and L. Quincy Mumford), one Assistant Librarian (David C. Mearns) and one division chief (Harold Spivacke) are subjects of biographical essays in the new *Supplement to the Dictionary of Library Biography*, edited by Wayne A. Wiegand and published by Libraries Unlimited Inc. Two library staff members contributed essays to the volume: **John Y. Cole**, acting associate librarian for Cultural Affairs, wrote about Luther Evans and L. Quincy Mumford and **Larry E. Sullivan**, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, contributed pieces about library educators Ernest James Reece and Carl Milton White.

Former Assistant Librarian **John C. Broderick** is the author of the sketch about David Mearns, while Harold Spivacke's career is described by Donald W. Krummel, professor of library science and of music at the University of Illinois at Urbana. Dr. Krummel was a Library of Congress employee from 1956 to 1961.

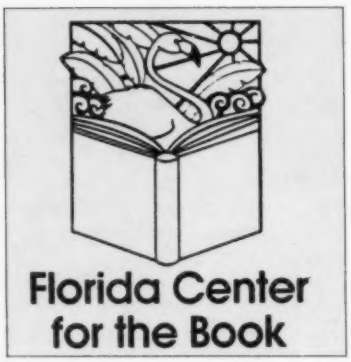
The *Supplement to the Dictionary of Library Biography* is available for $45 from Libraries Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 3988, Englewood, CO 80155-3988.

CORRECTIONS

The article "The Library During Wartime: The Korean Conflict" (vol. 50, no. 4, p. 57) contained several errors. The chief assistant librarian and subsequent acting Librarian of Congress was **Verner** W. Clapp, not **Vernor** W. Clapp. The Declaration of Independence and Constitution were transferred to the National Archives in 1952, not 1953. Queen Victoria was Queen Elizabeth's great-great-grandmother, rather than her grandmother.

News from the Center from the Book

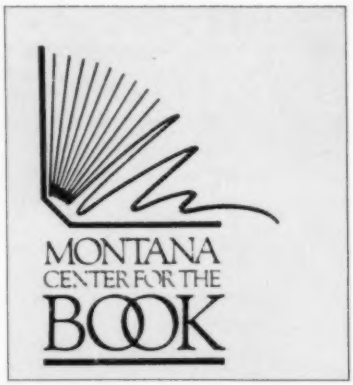
Officials Discuss Ways to Increase Libraries' Visibility



John Y. Cole, director, and program officer Maurvene D. Williams joined officials from the American Library Association, Friends of Libraries U.S.A. and other library advocate groups on Feb. 16 and 17 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to discuss ways of increasing the public visibility of libraries.

On Feb. 15, they also participated in a meeting of the advisory board of the Florida Center for the Book. A week before, in Helena, Mont., Dr. Cole participated in the opening session of "Literary Lights of the Big Sky," the first event sponsored by the Montana Center for the Book.

On Jan. 22, Ms. Williams represented the center in New York City at the Literary Marketplace Publishing Awards dinner held at the United Nations. The awards sponsor, R.R. Bowker Co., donated part of the income from ticket sales to the Center for the Book to support the Year of the Lifetime Reader campaign (see related story, this page).



Dr. Billington accepts a check for $7,500, flanked by Ira Siegel (left), R. R. Bowker president, and Stanley Walker, vice president for marketing.

Center Receives Bowker Donation

R.R. Bowker, an information reference company, donated $7,500 on Feb. 27 to the Center for the Book in support of the center's 1991—The Year of the Lifetime Reader promotion campaign.

First lady Barbara Bush is honorary chair of the campaign, which emphasizes the importance of reading as a lifetime pursuit.

Ira Siegel, president of Bowker, presented the donation to James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress. Mr. Siegel said, "Through the LMP [Literary Marketplace Publishing] Awards, Bowker is proud to support the center's efforts to promote reading as a lifetime pursuit. In keeping with the spirit of the awards, this donation is a tangible endorsement of the work being done by the center to promote and explore the vital role of books, reading and libraries—nationally and internationally. This donation is made in the name of Bowker and each and every book publishing representative among the 300 who attended the recent awards presentation."

In accepting the contribution, Dr. Billington said, "The Center for the Book's efforts to expand the audience for books and encourage reading depend entirely on private contributions. We are grateful to R.R. Bowker for this vote of confidence in the center and the importance of reading."

The Bowker donation represents a portion of the proceeds generated by the 1990 LMP Awards ceremonies, held at the United Nations in New York on Jan. 22. The awards, established by Bowker in 1989 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its publication *Literary Marketplace*, are given each year in recognition of excellence and innovation in publishing. For each ticket purchased for the ceremonies, $25 was contributed to the Center for the Book.

Aspin and Sununu Address Madison Council

John Sununu and Council member Edwin Cox at the March 5 reception, held in the Madison atrium. *Photos by Reid Baker*

Members of LC's James Madison National Council met at the Library for their spring meeting March 4–5 and heard Rep. Les Aspin and John H. Sununu, White House chief of staff, discuss the Gulf War and the president's domestic policy agenda.

Rep. Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, spoke about the war at dinner March 4 and predicted that "this war is going to be a defining event for . . . the next decade of American policy."

The Wisconsin Democrat warned, however, that because the United States fights wars so seldom, we have a tendency to "overlearn" from them. "I think there's no question that we overlearned from Vietnam, to our detriment. . . . It hampered us, and it very definitely handcuffed American foreign policy."

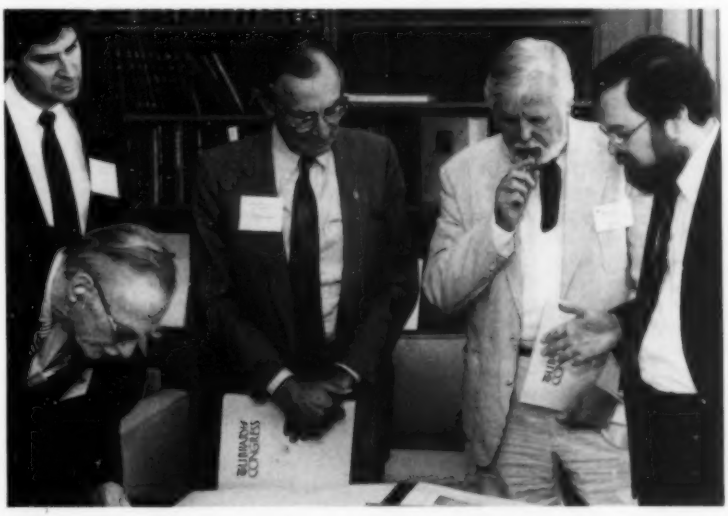
Rep. Aspin offered a number of reasons why the war was over so quickly. First, he said, the U.S. military, under the leadership of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, fought the war "in an incredibly smart way." Another surprise to the American public and to the press was that all of that costly military hardware worked. "It's quite clear," Rep. Aspin added, "that we have not given the American public a very balanced view of America's defense capabilities. . . . The problem, of course, is the press, but it's also Congress. Let's face it; Congress doesn't hold hearings, and the press doesn't write stories, about weapons systems that *work*. Somehow we've got to figure out a way to get a better balance.

Mr. Sununu spoke to members of the Madison Council the next day about the president's domestic agenda.

He suggested that the media do not do a good job of reporting on Bush's domestic program because "the press has missed it."

Mr. Sununu cited in particular the passage last year of a multiyear federal budget. "We may not all agree about what was good or not good about the budget, but let me point out to you that it was historical. There has never been more than a single-year budget enacted into law in the history of the United States."

Sununu also cited specific pieces of legislation—on education, transportation, disabled Americans—which "represent . . . a significant redirection in the way things either were going in the country or building on what was a solid foundation to begin with. That is not only a clear domestic agenda but, frankly, a solid record in terms of legislation passed." —*Helen Dalrymple*



Near East Section specialist Christopher Murphy (far right) explains the significance of some of LC's Arabic treasures to Council members (from left) James H. Clement, James Ginsburg, John Hechinger and Edward Lowe.

NAC Rallies Networkers in Preconference for WHCLIS

After nine months of activities, the Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee (NAC) conducted the "Networks for Networkers II" preconference on Dec. 17-19, 1990, at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel.

The preconference was preceded by several events. Following a request from the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) to assist in revising the networking part of the 1979 NCLIS program document, concerned with key issues in networking, NAC held a series of program sessions in 1985-1986. In December 1986, NAC issued a "vision statement," *Library Networking: Statement of a Common Vision*, and an action agenda of 29 tasks toward realizing this vision. Task 27 of the action agenda called for "(1) preparing a proposal for funding for a pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) on networking and (2) for the preparation of a publication, the proceedings of the conference."

Legislation, Funding, Planning

Legislation for the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS II) was passed in 1988 and Henriette D. Avram, associate librarian for Collections Services, Library of Congress, and NAC's chairman, testified at the December 1989 White House Conference Advisory Committee (WHCAC) meeting in an effort to get the funding needed for the preconference. In April 1990 partial funding was received from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) and additional funding came from private sources (the Coalition of Networked Information (CNI), Faxon Co. Inc., OCLC Inc., the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), DIALOG Information Services, Special Libraries Association). These contributions helped greatly and made the conference a reality by enabling Mrs. Avram to start planning for the December meeting.

Mrs. Avram established a Program Planning Committee made up of, in addition to herself, Carol C. Henderson, deputy director of the American Library Association's Washington office; Robert L. Oakley, director of Georgetown University Law Center; Kenneth M. King, president of EDUCOM; and Barbara E. Markuson, executive director of INCOLSA and principal investigator for the 1979 networking conference.

The planning committee set the theme as the potential of a logical nationwide network of academic/research and library organizations to improve end users' access to needed information and data for the next decade. The issue of the technology needed for such a network was addressed separately in September 1990 by a small group of carefully selected experts in a strategic network technology planning meeting at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio. Clifford A. Lynch, director of library automation, University of California at Berkeley, incorporated the results of the strategic meeting into his background paper for the December preconference.

The preconference included representatives of the majority of NAC member organizations as well as the American Association of School Librarians, ACRL, CAUSE, CNI, EDUCOM, Faxon Co. Inc., the Public Libraries Association, and WHCAC. Total attendance was 61.

Networking Pre-Conference

Mrs. Avram's general welcome included the background of NAC's involvement in and work toward the preconference. She noted that because librarians are the keepers and organizers of much of the information and data that feed the research process with which scholars are involved, the importance of the organization of the information and the critical role standards play in this organization should never be underestimated. She expressed her belief that the technical processing aspect that underpins and makes possible the research and reference functions will become increasingly important as the supernetwork being planned takes place.

Mrs. Avram stated that the deliberations of the full spectrum of the academic/research and library organizations concerning nationwide networking should be reflected in the outcome of the preconference and transmitted to WHCLIS II. Last, she outlined the goals and required results of the preconference, i.e., (1) resolutions to be sent to WHCLIS II, (2) a brochure that will summarize the purpose, content of, and resolutions stemming from the preconference, and (3) a report "Networks for Networkers II," which will contain all background papers (the results of the 1979 meeting of the networking community in anticipation of the first WHCLIS were published under the title "Networks for Networkers" in 1980), the resolutions and the strategic networking action agenda developed during the discussion group breakouts following each session

Barbara Markuson provided an historical overview of library networking and the changes anticipated for the next decade.

Kenneth M. King presented the overview of critical issues for the future, i.e., toward the development of a National Research and Education Network (NREN). He raised questions as to how NREN will be managed and policy issues resolved. He pointed out that much work is still to be done.

Clifford A. Lynch delivered his paper on "Achieving the Promise: A Proposed Strategic Agenda for Libraries and Networked Information Resources in the 1990s." Lynch used the results from the September two-day network technology planning session and raised questions about the scope of the proposed NREN and its need to reach beyond academic, research and large corporate libraries, and stated that the success of information resources on the NREN would require a rapid standardization effort of unprecedented scope. He surveyed the set of technology innovation projects under way throughout the library and academic communities and their interrelationships, and also drew attention to the need to greatly expand and revitalize information science research to drive future development of network-accessible information resources, particularly in support of scientific and technical fields.

The second speaker addressing network technology was Douglas Van Houweling, vice provost for information technology, University of Michigan. Van Houweling addressed the rapidly developing and changing networking and telecommunications environment as it is implemented throughout the United States. He said that within one's grasp is the creation of a flexible, relatively inexpensive digital communications network operating at speeds capable of supporting instantaneous access by any individual to information of any type wherever located, and this capability has the potential to change the way we publish, seek information and communicate. It will

thus transforms how libraries serve their patrons and consequently the fundamental structure and nature of the library community. Mr. Van Houweling emphasized that as a result, understanding the new network environment and its impact on the library world will be a fundamental requirement for the White House conference.

Peter Lyman, executive director of the Center for Scholarly Technology, University of Southern California, gave an overview of national information policy issues by saying the (1) computer-based information, like printed information, is an important foundation of a postindustrial society in which informed citizens participate in their government; (2) computer-based knowledge, like printed knowledge, is the foundation of science and technology, and therefore of economic productivity; and (3) technological literacy is necessary to access computer-based information and knowledge. Thus, like print, literacy is a foundation of American democracy and the economy. Mr. Lyman ended his presentation by quoting from the final report of the American Library Association's Presidential Commission on Information Literacy (January 1989) "that . . . to be information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information."

Fred W. Weingarten, executive director of the Computing Research Association, addressed information issues and the formulation of federal information policies. He described government interests as an opposing force to other information values; the need for government to collect information runs counter to the privacy interests of the citizenry; the government's need to keep secrets, e.g., in the area of national security, runs counter to the needs of the public to be informed; and the government's responsibility to disseminate information to the public runs counter to some property interests and competes with the private information marketplace. Mr. Weingarten sees a process of balancing, of setting up mechanisms for weighing competing interests, one against another, that will be a key to information policy-setting in the United States.

Howard F. McGinn, state librarian of North Carolina, addressed the state and local infrastructure of governance and funding by describing the organizational network environment in competition with other information providers. He predicted library networks will face new realities and need to adopt a corporate structure to serve an increasingly aggressive marketplace. Mr. McGinn predicted that local and state tax dollars will become increasingly scarce, thus forcing libraries to sell the information they produce. This runs counter to the free access to information tradition of the profession. He closed by saying that the evolution of a nationwide networking structure will help meet the goal of the betterment of society through the creation and distribution of vital information, especially for use by small-business and local governments.

Brian Kahin, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, spoke about the national infrastructure of governance and funding. NREN, an evolution of Internet, is still a collection of disparate networks of largely independent origins – most of them reflections of initiative either by people in a particular geographical region or by people sharing a common interest. An infrastructure of restricted purpose and limited participation hardly qualifies as an infrastructure. The political rationale for such an infrastructure investment in behalf of science and education rests on the expectations for a more competitive, healthy economy.

NREN represents a new form of infrastructure, Mr. Kahin contended, since it appears to be an example of a federal effort to bring us closer together as a nation.

Kenneth E. Dowlin, city librarian at San Francisco Public Library, elaborated on citizens' information needs for the new century by illustrating how information illiteracy not only harms the illiterate but will become an increasing financial strain on each city and ultimately the nation's economy. He argued passionately for increased information and knowledge to tear down social barriers between the information literate and the illiterate and that efforts toward a national network should incorporate the ability to allow libraries to meet societal information needs.

Nina W. Matheson, director of the William H. Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, was the last speaker and addressed scholarly and research goals for a new century by stating a vision that "anyone who wants a piece of information or data can obtain it, if it exists, and use it productively and communicate with anyone else as needed, at his or her desk, without undue effort, in a short time, at a reasonable cost, and be confident of the quality and integrity of the process."

Some of the requirements needed to achieve this vision, according to Ms. Matheson, are a technical infrastructure, a spectrum of interrelated data bases and knowledge bases to support scholarly and scientific research, appropriate software engineering, a social structure that recognizes a shared responsibility for creation and maintenance of such knowledge bases and last, leadership from academic centers, the communities responsible for generating the majority of new knowledge.

Discussion Group Sessions

At the end of each program session, a panel of experts commented on the speakers' presentations, and the preconference participants discussed the respective papers in four preselected discussion group sessions. Each group was charged with submitting two potential White House resolutions and three strategic network planning action items.

This process could potentially generate 32 WHCLIS resolutions and 48 strategic network planning action items. Since some resolutions overlapped or duplicated each other, an ad hoc committee was formed to edit the resolutions and eliminate duplication, resulting in nine White House Conference resolutions. The strategic network planning action items will be edited at a later date for publication.

White House Conference Resolutions

The final list of resolutions will be sent to the staff of WHCLIS to be forwarded to WHCLIS II in July 1991. **(For a complete list of the resolutions, contact Sigrid G. Harriman, NAC Secretariat, Library of Congress, Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Washington, DC 20540, or phone (202) 707-5956.)**

Strategic Network Planning Action Agenda

The strategic network planning action items will be edited, annotated and organized by topic with the organizations recommended for actions included, such as ALA, CNI, EDUCOM. An ad hoc committee of NAC will be asked to consider the original 1986 NAC action agenda for like recommendations while attempting to group and prioritize the new listing.

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